



Supervisor Burke Hosts 21st Annual County of Los Angeles Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke presided over the County of Los Angeles Martin Luther King Jr. 2003 Commemoration on January 17 before an overflow crowd at Martin Luther King Jr./Charles R. Drew Medical Center.



At a reception before the Martin Luther King Jr. 2003 Commemoration program, Supervisor Burke (4th from left) got together with (l-r): Auditor-Controller J. Tyler McCauley; Military and Veterans Affairs Department Director Joseph Smith; Alternate Public Defender Janice Fukai; Board of Supervisors Executive Officer Violet Varona-Lukens; Martin Luther King Jr. Award honoree Lillian Mobley; Director of Personnel Michael J. Henry; County Counsel Lloyd Pellman; Director of Community and Senior Services Robert Ryans; and District Attorney Steve Cooley.

Supervisor Burke, who was acquainted with King, told the crowd: “As Dr. King said, ‘progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability.’” She said she remembers when during a visit King made to Los Angeles, a group of people in an audience he was addressing “got up and walked out because they didn’t agree with nonviolence.” She went on to add that “In a time when there are weapons that could destroy all or most of the world, Dr. King’s words mean more today than ever before.”

She said that while Martin Luther King Hospital “already has departments that are among the best in the nation (U.S. News & World Report ranked King/Drew Medical Center in the top 30 of all hospitals in the nation in Geriatric specialties), and today I’m issuing a challenge to other departments to meet those same high standards of excellence.”

Supervisor Burke then presented the Martin Luther King Jr. 2003 Award to

community activist Lillian Mobley. Supervisor Burke called Mobley “one of a group of distinguished activists who were responsible for the development of King Hospital.” The Supervisor said that her predecessor, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, had leaned on the support of Mobley and others in his struggle to bring the hospital into being. Supervisor Burke further noted that King/Drew Hospital has named a clinical trials unit in Mobley’s honor.

After accepting her award, Mobley told the crowd that she continues to be closely involved with King Hospital. “I’m a member of the oversight committee,” she said, “so I’ll be watching to make sure that [all members of the hospital staff] give their best.”

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Employee of the Month: Probation Department’s Wini Jackson

Wini Jackson has been a County employee for 37 years and is currently a Supervising Administrative Assistant II with the Probation Department. She began her County career in 1965 as a Transcriber Typist for the then Department of Public Assistance (now known as the Department of Public Social Services). Over the years she was promoted and transferred to various departments, where she maintained her interest in working on programs that aid children. In her various roles, she has personified the term “child advocate,” seeking to promote the value of quality educational opportunities; creating special experiences that provide recognition and reward; and hope, to envision a future for the at-risk children served by the County.

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EVENT CALENDAR

Milestones: A Salute to African-American Achievement

February 27, 11:45am
Mall-area Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

"Making"

Through September 1
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org
A participatory, interactive art project for children.

Los Angeles Philharmonic Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann

February 28 to March 2
Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA
(323) 850-2000

Los Angeles Master Chorale presents Tangos and Prayers

March 8
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA
(213) 972-7282

Los Angeles Opera presents The Flying Dutchman

March 22 to April 12
Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA
(213) 972-8001

Third Annual Job Fair

Sponsored by Supervisor Yvonne
Brathwaite-Burke
April 12 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Southwest College Gymnasium

Sixth Annual Remembering Our Veterans and Their Families

Sponsored by Supervisor Michael D.
Antonovich
May 24 - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Arcadia County Park

Fifth Annual Multicultural Conference: March 26 and 27

The County of Los Angeles' Fifth Annual Multicultural Conference will be held on March 26 and 27 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel & Centre, 930 Wilshire Boulevard, in Los Angeles. Sponsored by the Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, the Quality and Productivity Commission and numerous County departments, this year's conference object of preparation, "Reaching the Vision - Respect for Diversity" promises to be a premier two-day event. Respect for diversity calls for redefining, reexamining, rethinking and restructuring many aspects of our institutions and our lives. Understanding and exemplifying how human differences add to satisfaction in the workplace, as well as to business performance, is one of the goals of the Multicultural Conference.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend workshops, panel discussions, and intercultural programs designed to develop an awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity and cultural competency among public service providers in our richly diverse communities. The Multicultural Conference provides a context for professional dialogue aimed at achieving greater creativity, organizational productivity, and an inclusive, respectful environment. Furthermore, the Multicultural Conference provides an opportunity to move dialogue and action forward.

CONFERENCE

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George Washington: A National Treasure

George Washington: A National Treasure, opened at LACMA on November 8, 2002, just after Election Day, and is available for viewing to the public through March 9, 2003. The portrait then will travel to Seattle, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, Little Rock, and finally New York City, where it will complete its tour at the Metropolitan Museum of Art beginning in September 2004.



The famous Stuart painting is commonly referred to as the "Lansdowne" portrait. This title is derived from the name of the person for whom it was painted, the first Marquis of Lansdowne. It was commissioned in 1796 by one of America's wealthiest men, United States Senator William Bingham, and his wife Anne, for the Marquis, a British supporter of the American cause in Parliament during the American Revolution. The gift was a remarkable gesture of gratitude and a symbol of reconciliation between America and Great Britain. The painting was displayed in Lansdowne's London mansion until his death in 1805, after which it remained in private hands and

WASHINGTON

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WeTip WELFARE FRAUD HOTLINE

1-800-87-FRAUD

Supervisor Molina's Six-Month Pilot Program Helps Over 20 Homeless Families Leave Skid Row

Supervisor Gloria Molina's six-month pilot program to help homeless families leave Skid Row came to an official close with the start of the new year. So far, more than 20 homeless families have benefited, as numerous public sector agencies streamlined their own bureaucracies to provide clients with intensive case management.

"Recently, the number of homeless families living in downtown's Skid Row area has grown and their plight has worsened," Supervisor Molina stated. "What is most disturbing to me is that the number of homeless families is higher than ever. That means more children are living in abject poverty and that is unacceptable. I created this pilot project in order to simplify existing programs for the homeless—instead of creating new ones—so that we could help these families out of their dire situations."

The pilot project differed from standard procedure in several ways, according to Margaret Quinn, the Department of Public Social Services' (DPSS) Chief of the Cash Programs Division. First, outreach was intensive; normally County agencies depend on homeless individuals to seek assistance. Under the pilot project staff from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)—an agency operated jointly by the City and County of Los Angeles—actively sought out homeless families and encouraged them to participate in the program.

"Also, people committed in-kind resources to the project as opposed to using whatever funds were currently available," Quinn said. "LAHSA really stepped up to the plate and committed emergency shelter beds" via emergency shelter vouchers.

Another unique feature of the project was its holistic approach to helping families off the streets. LAHSA recruited families and helped supply them with emergency shelter; DPSS connected families to public benefits and welfare-to-work resources; the Department of Mental Health (DMH) provided immediate counseling and on-site referrals to substance abuse programs; the Community Development Commission (CDC) found permanent housing whenever possible; and community-based organizations such as "Beyond Shelter" provided assorted services.

"The best thing to come out of the project was the tight collaboration between agencies," said Lisa Wong, a therapist and CalWORKs coordinator at the downtown Mental Health Center. "It's too overwhelming when [clients] have to go all over the community to get little pieces of what they need. It was so much better to take a holistic approach to helping them, otherwise it's so piecemeal."

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County Honors Cesar Chavez

In its second annual tribute to Cesar Chavez, an American hero and recipient of America's highest civilian honor the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the County of Los Angeles has proclaimed March 24-31, 2003 as Cesar Chavez Community Service Week.

County employees are encouraged to volunteer one day of community service by participating in food and shelter projects, tree planting projects, service center clean-up and painting projects, environmental projects and non-profit agency projects which assist families in need. Employees are asked to complete a Chavez Volunteer Application by March 14 for their volunteer assignment, Chavez Volunteer t-shirt and button.

Employees unable to volunteer a day of community service are asked to support the Chavez Food Drive Project scheduled at over 100 County worksites. Last year, through the generosity of participating County employees, over 11,015 meals were provided to needy families.

"Performing community service which assists families in need is a fitting way for our employees to honor the life and core values of Cesar Chavez. Service to others was one of his guiding principles," Supervisor Gloria Molina stated.



Supervisor Gloria Molina, CAO David Janssen and Dolores Huerta encourage employees to volunteer a day of community service during Cesar Chavez Week

A full calendar of scheduled events will be posted on the County Library Cesar Chavez Web site at www.colapublib.org/chavez which will also feature an impressive array of online resources, information on the life of Cesar Chavez, historical material, a Chavez curriculum, children's activities and audio-video clips. This collection paints a portrait of his life's work, his humanitarian/non-violent philosophy through a unique, family oriented interactive Web site.

CHAVEZ

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FEBRUARY RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Chester A. Olson
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Joel A. Specter
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Margaret Ferris, Ellen Janapol, Carmen L. Rios, Gloria J. Tidwell
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Norman L. Biehn Jr, Nikola M. Mikulicich, Sherron A. Trawick
FIRE: Roy E. Chapman, John P. Hacker, Joseph F. Henson, Jose L. Lopez, Robert S. Porter, Bruce E. Price, Michael J. Ritchie, Jimmie L. Ryland, Randall L. Wright
HEALTH SERVICES: Sarah Cain, Nashaat F. Dawood, Bernice D. Hall, Hassan S. Kilany, Tod Maharg, Lawrence J. Morales, Ronald Nachum, Edward Thomas, Carole S. Wright
INTERNAL SERVICES: Dean B. Bowen, John L. Kallok
LACERA: Helen M. Murphy, Alice C. Natale
PARKS & RECREATION: Joaquin P. Amaro, Michael P. Mayne
PROBATION: Carolyn A. Boutney, Roger J. Fernandez, Glen C. Houston, E. N. Nemer
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Gregory Batch, Brenda Bell-Franklin, Esperanza Bonilla, Nancy D. Brassaw, Penelope H. Calloway, Shirley Crockett, Jeanne E. McPherson, Carol A. Mixon, Clairel Portis
PUBLIC WORKS: Donald J. Corrigan, Henry Miyashiro, Ronald J. Ornee
REGIONAL PLANNING: Morris J. Litwack
SHERIFF: Dennis S. Barnes, Kenneth L. Bayless, David O. Berke, John D. Boyle, John L. Brooks Jr, Richard C. Cooper, Susan S. Daigh, Jack Duran, James N. Glazar, Randolph F. Goff, Jerry S. Greene, Shirley A. Hutchinson, William R. Hutton, Francis W. Kasko, Michael L. Kenyon, Pok K. Kim, Ronald S. Layton, Reynaldo E. Lopez, Richard H. Orrill, Doral R. Riggs, Ross D. Rudin, Ralph A. Salazar, Michael L. Turner, Stephen H. Vance, Alexander S. Vonborstel, Mary A. Washington, Bernadette Williams
SUPERIOR COURT: Samuel Bernier, Rosaline Kunipo, Wing H. Lee, Penelope A. Tinnell
TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Janice E. Brown

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Donald Lee
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Marianne Packard
FIRE: James R. Jeffries, William T. Peters, Arie J. Vanderstaay
HEALTH SERVICES: Betty Burton, Lee Coleman, Charlene A. De Bie, Ted A. De Boer, Loretta Hill, Toshiko Huey, Joan Hutter, Rose Jaramillo, John G. Reyna, Michael E. Saavedra, Lula B. Sykes, Frances E. Taclay, Manuel Q. Tran
INTERNAL SERVICES: James Barry, Ekbal Khalil, Thomas L. Rice,
PROBATION: Lester V. Anthony, Lucille Rodriguez, Beverly J. Smith
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Gloria E. Boutte, Annis Burgos, Amelia L. Cumulada, Hyang Y. Lee
PUBLIC WORKS: Rick A. Hart, Byron D. Rexwinkel, Honorato M. Vitug, Edward T. Yamashita
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Luther O. Rhodes
SHERIFF: Robert L. Dillard Jr., Daniel L. Edginton, Myrtle I. Everage, William J. Frangione, Benjamin C. Hilliard, Pok K. Kim, Raymond J Kwiatkowski, Emil N. Lodahl, James L. Oneal II, Raul Quezada, Dennis A. Riley

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"My attention is always focused on the children. They need someone to look out for their best interests" says Jackson.



Jackson has been instrumental in linking the resources of celebrities, community organizations, corporate partners, and a number of local television and radio stations to promote and develop programs of direct benefit to children. Her current projects use the Lord of the Rings trilogy as the focal point of Supervisor Don Knabe's literacy project, as well as the Probation Department's programs that encourage reading.

In Operation Read I, students were challenged to read "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" and prepare an essay. They were then treated to a premier showing of the film, with refreshments. Operation Read I had 1,000 youth participate in "Reading with a Purpose to Gain a Dream."

In 2002, Operation II dared students to read "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" and write an essay on what they believed to be their purpose in life. Operation II drew the participation of 4,000 students, who were treated to viewing the movie before anyone else.

"I think we can get 14,000 students reading "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" for Operation Read III during 2003," said an enthusiastic Jackson.

She is an active member of the Faithful Central Church, as well as a volunteer at Martin Luther King/Drew Medical Center where she takes a special interest in babies who are impacted by their mother's substance abuse problems. She has been involved with the Children's Defense Fund and is involved with many things that directly impact children and their ability to learn.

Jackson is the mother of three and a grandmother of three. "My extended family is huge because it includes many of the children I have served during my 37 years of service."

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A national tribute by the United States Postal Service in honor of the 10th anniversary of the civil rights and farm labor leader's passing will also be held on April 23, 2003 in the Court of Flags unveiling a Cesar Chavez commemorative postage stamp.

For additional information on how you can get involved, please contact the Chief Administrative Office, Workplace Programs at (213) 974-2495, fax (213) 633-4694 or email egutierr@cao.co.la.ca.us

Chavez Community Service Week 2003

March 24-31

- Cesar Chavez Exhibit at Museum of Art
- Community Service Volunteer Opportunities and Food Drive
- Cultural Events at Parks, Libraries, Communit Centers and Museum of Art

March 25

- Board Ceremony: Tribute to Cesar Chavez
Please see page 11 for the application

CONFERENCE

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Conference presenters represent a broad spectrum of professionals from the fields of social science, education and human relations, as well as diverse leaders from local community organizations. Dr. Lonnie Edwards, author of "Reaching Beyond Boundaries, A Teacher's Touch," will be the plenary speaker on March 26. The plenary speaker on March 27 will be Val Zavala who is co-anchor of the KCET signature series Life and Times tonight. She is also the vice president of News and Public Affairs for KCET. The closing plenary speaker will be John Hill, chief of staff for Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke.

Everyone is invited to attend. There will be a \$100 registration fee per attendee.

For further information about the conference, please call Marcus Castro, Conference Program Chair, at (213) 893-0895.



Articles and other submissions to the County Digest may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Department of Human Resources

500 W. Temple Street, Room 375
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1765
(213) 613-4789 Fax

Available online at: hr.co.la.ca.us

Walt Disney Concert Hall Beam Signing

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky prepares to sign a steel beam at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, a show of pride and symbolic tribute to the hundreds of construction workers who also signed beams during the last several years the Hall has been under construction. Slated to open for the Fall 2003 concert season as the newest and most spectacular



addition to the Music Center of Los Angeles County, the state-of-the-art concert facility project launched in 1987 with a generous financial commitment eventually topping \$100 million from Walt's widow, Lillian Disney, and their daughters Sharon and Diane. Los Angeles-based architect Frank Gehry contributed the building's unique design.

Santa Monica Boulevard Groundbreaking



Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (second from right) is joined (from the left) by Mayor James Hahn, Yaroslavsky Chief Deputy Alisa Katz, and Councilmember Jack Weiss to break ground for the Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway Project. The Transit Parkway will unify and improve the long-neglected two-mile stretch of "big" and "little" Santa Monica Boulevard (Route 2) between the western border of Beverly Hills and the 405Fwy, improving the traffic flow and adding amenities such as pedestrian walkways, planted medians and other landscaping.

SHARING A COMMITMENT

Long-Term Care Strategic Plan for the Aged and Disabled Adults



Robert Ryans (sixth from left), director, Community and Senior Services with County representatives and community stakeholders.

On January 21, 17 County departments joined Community and Senior Services (CSS) in recommending the first County of Los Angeles Long-Term Strategic Care Plan for the Aged and Disabled Adults. Numerous County and community stakeholders developed the Long-Term Care Strategic Plan over an intensive two-year period and presented it to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. The plan was further enriched by consumer input obtained through eight community forums convened Countywide. The plan's recommendations (seven goals, 24 strategies to advance the goals,

and 47 objectives) endorsed by the New Directions Task Force are intended to provide a practical framework for the first step of transforming long-term care services in the County. The vision is to create a community-based long-term care system that assures independence, dignity, and choice.

The Long-Term Care Strategic Plan positions the County of Los Angeles to take a strong leadership role in local, state, and federal planning and coordination of long-term care services. The plan also serves as an important

County input to the State for the development of its response to the implementation of the Olmstead Supreme Court 1999 ruling. The central holding of the Olmstead ruling is that the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits states from unnecessarily institutionalizing persons with disabilities. Thus, the presumption is in favor of community care. “The Long-Term Care Strategic Plan is our commitment to improving the lives of many aged and disabled adults in the County of Los Angeles,” said Robert Ryans, director of Community and Senior Services.

The recommended actions are linked with the newly revised County Strategic Plan and CSS’ strategic plan goal number three: *Organizational Effectiveness*. Furthermore, the actions are aligned with other County departments’ strategic plans and community strategic initiatives.



Robert Ryans
Director, Community and Senior Services

There is no fiscal impact on the County at this time. The recommended actions call for planning and coordinating activities that can be implemented with existing resources. For those activities that are not cost-neutral, new revenue, excluding County General Funds, will be secured.

The need for better long-term care services in the County is already compelling. Thus, implementation of the Long-Term Care Strategic Plan (2003-2006) is the first bold step for transforming long-term care services to prepare for the anticipated demand in services. The ultimate beneficiaries of strategic planning and coordination of efforts are the County’s elderly and disabled residents.

To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service



County of Los Angeles VISION

Our purpose is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our philosophy of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our shared values:

- ◆ responsiveness
- ◆ professionalism
- ◆ accountability
- ◆ compassion
- ◆ integrity
- ◆ commitment
- ◆ a can-do attitude
- ◆ respect for diversity

Our position as the premiere organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- ◆ a capability to undertake programs that have public value
- ◆ an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation
- ◆ a pledge to always work to earn the public trust

Tips on Taxes from the Auditor-Controller

As you look at the amount of money taken out of your paycheck for taxes next payday, you will realize the large impact taxes have on your take home pay.

There is very little that a person can do after December 31 to reduce taxes for the previous year, so the New Year is a good time to reevaluate your tax situation and consider a few New Year's resolutions that may make your life "less taxing."

Use your 2002 tax return to reevaluate the amount of taxes you are having withheld each month. If you had to pay taxes for 2002 beyond the amount of taxes withheld in 2002, you may not be withholding enough taxes each month. You should consider increasing your withholding so that you don't end up with a surprise tax liability for 2003. Or, if you received a large tax refund, you may be over withholding. You may want to consider decreasing your withholding to receive more income each month.

Get Federal W-4 and State DE-4 Withholding Allowance Worksheets from your payroll section to help you calculate the correct withholding amount for you. It's a good idea to try to establish a withholding amount that is a little more than necessary so that you don't end up with a tax liability at the end of the year. When determining the amount to withhold, it is important to remember to consider any other income you receive where no taxes are withheld. You will want to withhold extra to cover this income so you can avoid a tax liability.

Consider enrolling in the County's deferred income plans, or if you are already enrolled, consider increasing your deferral percentage. Try to contribute at least enough to obtain the full available County matching funds. Remember employee contributions to the County plans are made with before tax dollars so they directly reduce taxable earnings and therefore your taxes.

Take time to adequately research the income tax consequences of a business transaction before you enter into it. Seek the services of a qualified tax professional to assist you if you are unsure.

Look at the economic benefits of any transaction first, and then try to maximize the tax benefits. Remind yourself that the tax benefits are just a percentage of the total amount spent because deductions only lower your taxes by the percent you pay taxes, not 100%.

Realize that tax planning is an ongoing process and try to maintain a basic understanding of the tax laws as they apply to you so that you are able to make tax-wise decisions throughout the year.

Establish a place to put all receipts and evidence of expenditures you will need to prepare your 2003 income tax forms so you will have the necessary support to claim all legitimate deductions and tax credits.

Start the New Year off on the right foot by taking inventory of your tax situation now and consider ways you can lower your taxes. If you do, chances are that come this time next year, you will be glad you did.

If you need tax forms they are available on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov.

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King with Supervisor Burke when she was a California Assemblywoman and California's first African American woman legislator, during a civil rights gathering at Ebenezer Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, in the late 1960's.

County officials who attended the event included District Attorney Steve Cooley, Director of Personnel Michael J. Henry, County Counsel Lloyd Pellman, Board of Supervisors Executive Officer Violet Varona-Lukens, Military and Veterans Affairs Director Joseph Smith; Director of Community & Senior Services, Robert Ryans; Auditor-Controller J. Tyler McCauley, and Alternate Public Defender Janice Fukai.

The ceremony included an invocation by Brother Vincent Hawkins of Normandie Church of Christ; a rendition of "The Lord's Prayer" by Mary Cotton, first lady of Liberty Baptist Church; posting of colors by Jordan High School Army Jr. R.O.T.C.; performance of the National Anthem by Lisa Tucker; musical selections by Rev. Prentis Lewis of Morningstar Baptist Church; and a benediction by Father David O'Connell, Ascension Catholic Church. Dr. Calvin Johnson, chair of King Hospital Department of Anesthesiology, introduced Supervisor Burke, and Interim Hospital Administrator Willie T. May welcomed the crowd. Dr. Charles Frances, president of Charles Drew University of Medicine & Science, gave greetings, and Dr. Keith Norris, president of the Professional Staff Association, gave closing remarks.

After the event, Supervisor Burke was surrounded by autograph seekers asking her to sign photos of herself with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

Employee Surveys

The Department of Human Resources, in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Office, is making final preparations with all County departments to distribute employee surveys to all permanent County employees. The surveys are designed to assess key factors in the work environment that contribute to the strategic goals of Service Excellence, Workforce Excellence, and the Well Being of Children and Families. Because of its importance to the County's strategic plan implementation, the survey project is being financed by the Quality and Productivity Commission.

In December 2002, the Board of Supervisors approved revisions to the County's Strategic Plan. The County's Strategic Plan has been designed to build upon the successes of the past and move the County in a new direction for the future. It will provide guidance and help the County stay focused on the issues that are most important. The strategic goals contained within the plan recognize the importance of the employees to the County's continued effectiveness. County employees will have an opportunity to provide input to the County's strategic efforts through one of several employee surveys.

All permanent County employees will be asked to complete one of the following surveys:

A Work Life Survey that assesses job characteristics, aspects of work life, and County employees' perceptions and feelings about their jobs and employment with the County.

A Training Needs Survey that assesses the current and future training needs, i.e., the knowledge, skills, abilities, and other competencies that will need to be developed to achieve the goals of Workforce Excellence and Service Excellence.

A Computer Use Survey that assesses the ability of County employees to use personal computers to create and edit documents, to store and better utilize data, to make presentations, to communicate through electronic mail, and to obtain information from the Internet.

A random selection process will determine the specific survey that an individual employee will be asked to

SURVEYS

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“Reach Out and Read” Program



Supervisor Don Knabe, joined by the Consul General of New Zealand (pictured above), welcomed 4,000 Los Angeles area youth recently to a private screening of the feature film *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*. The screening was organized as a part of the “Reach Out and Read” literacy program initiated by Supervisor Knabe and sponsored by the Probation Department.

Each of the 4,000 youths participated voluntarily in the program and had a requirement to read J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* on his/her own time, as well as to submit a report explaining the significance of the story.

“You can't get the most basic job in our society without the ability to read,” said Knabe. “I am so proud of each of these students for accepting the challenge to read this book and understand the importance reading has in their lives.”

As a surprise on the day of the screening, every student that participated in the program became eligible for a grand prize trip for two to New Zealand, to see first hand where the movie was filmed. A Los Angeles-area teacher also received a grand prize trip for two.

This is the second “Reach Out and Read” program organized by Supervisor Knabe. The first year saw 1,000 local area youth participate and next year, with the third and final segment of the *Lord of the Rings Trilogy*, the literacy program is expected to reach even more students.

Supervisor Antonovich Announces Program Targeting Criminal Aliens



Pictured from left to right: United States Attorney Debra Yang, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Sheriff Lee Baca, CHP Deputy Chief Mike Brown, and Jan Maurizi, director of the Bureau of Branch and Area Operations for District Attorney Steve Cooley.

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich was joined by Sheriff Lee Baca, United States Attorney Debra Yang, California Highway Patrol Deputy Chief Mike Brown and Jan Maurizi, director of the Bureau of Branch and Area Operations for District Attorney Steve Cooley, at a press conference on December 20 announcing the implementation of the HI-CAAP (High Intensity-Criminal Alien Apprehension and Prosecution) program.

Sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, Sheriff Baca, and the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC), the HI-CAAP program is the product of an intensive collaboration involving local law enforcement, the United States Attorney General's Office, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The program was funded by the U.S. Department of Justice to develop a more effective and coordinated law enforcement response to the problem of criminal illegal aliens.

HI-CAAP emphasizes interagency coordination and utilizes state-of-the-art fingerprint and computer technologies to intensify enforcement efforts against repeat criminal illegal alien offenders.

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DPSS Human Services Administrator Rosie Ruiz helped coordinate this aspect of the project. "The departments and agencies involved met as a team "every week," Ruiz said. "We would go over each of the families' case plans. There was a lot of handholding, and a lot of families were hesitant to join at first. But as we provided them with reassurance, they became comfortable with participating in the project."



Lisa Wong, a therapist and CalWORKS coordinator at the downtown Mental Health Clinic, welcomes participants of Supervisor Molina's pilot project for homeless families who attended a special holiday gathering held last December.

"Eighty-eight percent of the families had mental health issues," Quinn added. "That is significant. This is a major barrier for finding permanent housing."

"Also, the effect of the project on the children can't be overstated," she continued. "Now the children are in school. Most of the children attend counseling sessions with their parents and there has been a lot of improvement, especially for families that found permanent housing."

"It was important for the kids to have one place and person to identify with and attach to," Wong agreed.

"Before, they were dragged all over the place. It was really sad. They had no consistency. In the program, they knew they could come [to the downtown Mental Health Center], that I'd give them snacks and we had toys for them to play with—they knew what to expect."

The effectiveness of the pilot project is also due in large part to the fact that the Section 8 housing process became more efficient.

"Applications now take 30 days to process as opposed to eight months," Supervisor Molina explained. "Criminal background checks now take 24 hours to conduct rather than two weeks. Verifying income now takes 24 hours, not one month. And vouchers are issued daily instead of twice a week."

But staff from the pilot project did encounter some surprisingly difficult challenges, especially with regard to housing. "What I learned is that the problem doesn't begin at the emergency shelter door," Quinn said. "It's that there's no permanent housing. People received Section 8 vouchers, but there still aren't many apartments out there renting at the Section 8 rate. Without permanent housing, people are stuck in transitional housing. When people stay in transitional housing longer,

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**County of Los Angeles
Cesar Chavez 2003 Community Service Week
Employee Volunteer Application**

Sponsored by the County Board of Supervisors, the Cesar Chavez 2003 Community Service Week Program was designed to provide you with a number of community service volunteer opportunities. Your volunteer service will help provide health and human care services to families in need, through caring partnerships.

Please provide the Chief Administrative Office with the following information and indicate your project preference by March 14:

Your Name: _____

Department: _____

Work Address: _____

City: _____

Work Phone: _____ **Other:** _____

Fax: _____

Please indicate your date preference and volunteer activity: March 24 - 31, 2003

Date: Choice #1 _____ Choice #2 _____ Choice #3 _____

Activity Choice:

___ Clean-up Project ___ Environmental Project ___ Tree Planting

___ Community Service Center Project ___ Food Shelter Project

___ Painting Project ___ Food Drive Coordinator (on-site)

With my department (representative) approval, I agree to voluntarily assist in providing health and human care services to families in need and I understand that volunteering for this activity should not adversely impact the delivery of County service to County clients.

Signature

Date

Please Return to: Chief Administrative Office, Workplace Programs
By March 14, 2003 Cesar Chavez Program
 500 W. Temple St., Suite B-1
 Los Angeles, CA 90012 or fax: (213) 633-4694

Share It

A Brief Overview of the County of Los Angeles

The County of Los Angeles was established on February 18, 1850 as one of the 27 original counties in the State of California. There are 88 cities in Los Angeles County – the first city to incorporate was Los Angeles on April 4, 1850 while the most recent was Calabasas on April 5, 1991.

On November 5, 1912, voters approved the charter county form of government, which took effect on June 2, 1913, with a five-member Board of Supervisors. They are elected by district to serve four-year alternating terms at elections held every two years. The voter-approved County seat is the City of Los Angeles.

The County of Los Angeles is also represented in Congress by 17 Representatives and at the state level by 14 Senators and 25 Assembly members.

On January 2002, the County's population was 9,824,807, which included 8,796,127 residents in the incorporated area and 1,028,680 residents in the unincorporated area. The County of Los Angeles has the largest population of any county in the nation, and a larger population than 42 states. Los Angeles is the second largest city in the nation in terms of population and one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world.

The County of Los Angeles encompasses an area of 4,081 square miles, roughly the size of Jamaica, with altitudes that vary from nine feet below sea level in Wilmington to 10,080 feet above sea level at Mt. San Antonio. There are 81 miles of beaches, which represent nearly nine percent of California's 840-mile coastline. Motorists utilize 21,191 miles of roadway, including 25 freeways.

SURVEYS

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complete. In addition, some supervisors and managers will be asked to complete Supervisor Surveys.

The input of all employees is being sought to help prioritize and select specific initiatives and programs. In addition, it is important to take steps in enhancing the work environment and development opportunities within available resources. Data from the surveys will also provide a baseline that will help the County evaluate its progress. Participation in the survey project is voluntary and each individual's response to the surveys will be strictly confidential. Although it may take several years to address the issues identified through the surveys, the County in an ongoing effort is committed to the strategic plan and to its employees. Employees are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to contribute in achieving the strategic goals and make the County a better place to work.

WASHINGTON

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was eventually incorporated into the collection of the 5th Earl of Rosebery around 1890. The portrait was later hung in Dalmeny House in West Lothian, Scotland.

The famed "Lansdowne" portrait of George Washington is stopping over at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art as part of its historic first-ever tour of select cities in the United States organized by the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C., and sponsored by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation of Las Vegas, Nevada. The portrait, painted in 1796 by Gilbert Stuart, the most prestigious American portraitist of his day, has been compared in historical and cultural importance to the Liberty Bell and the Declaration of Independence. The painting is being accompanied in Los Angeles by an in-depth exhibition organized by LACMA of Washington-related art works demonstrating the founding father's continuing impact on American life and art.

MOLINA

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then those families using emergency housing can't move into transitional housing." Nevertheless, the results of the pilot project are promising. All of the families participating in the program are off Skid Row.

"The pilot project is by no means the end of our effort," Supervisor Molina said. "But within the last six months, we've proven that it is possible to make fundamental modifications to existing County bureaucracy. And those changes made all the difference for more than 20 families, who now have a place to live."



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